



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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*Call Gerry about
response*

Special Commission on
Hazardous Waste (Chairman)

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Committees:

Natural Resources and Agriculture
(Vice-Chairman)
Public Safety

JULY 5, 1984

TO: GERARD SOTOLONGO
MERRILL HOHMAN
SUSAN SLADEK

FROM: REPRESENTATIVE ROGER GOYETTE

RE: ENFORCEMENT OF NEW BEDFORD HARBOR AND ESTUARY CLOSURES

ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND A COPY OF A LETTER I RECEIVED FROM ALLAN MCGROARY, ACTING DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT. IN THE LETTER, MR. MCGROARY REPORTS A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF PATROL HOURS DURING FY '82-'83 IN NEW BEDFORD HARBOR AND THE ACUSHNET RIVER ESTUARY. FY '83-'84 WILL EQUAL AND MAY SURPASS PATROL HOURS OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR. THIS INDICATES CONSIDERABLY MORE ENFORCEMENT PRESSURE IS BEING EXERTED IN THE CLOSED AREAS OF THE HARBOR AND ESTUARY THAN IN YEARS PAST.

HOWEVER, ILLEGAL FISHING AND SHELLFISHING CONTINUES TO BE A PROBLEM IN THESE WATERS, AS WELL AS TRESSPASSING (ALBEIT OFTEN BY UNKNOWNING INDIVIDUALS) ON CONTAMINATED FLATS. CLEARLY, ENFORCEMENT CAN STILL BE IMPROVED.

THE DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT HAS INITIATED PLANS TO WORK COOPERATIVELY IN IMPROVING ENFORCEMENT STILL MORE. TO AID THE DIVISION, I AM REQUESTING THAT EPA PURCHASE SOLIDLY CONSTRUCTED SIGNS DESIGNATING CLOSED AREAS. THE DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT WILL IN TURN MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO PROTECT THE SIGNS FROM VANDALISM. AREA RESIDENTS AND THE VISITING PUBLIC WILL BENEFIT FROM THE WRITTEN REMINDERS THAT THEY SHOULD KEEP AWAY. ADDITIONALLY, THE SIGNS WILL HELP FREE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS TO CONDUCT PATROLS OF CONTAMINATED FLATS AND OPEN WATER AREAS FOR ILLEGAL FISHING AND SHELLFISHING.

WE CAN EXPECT FULL COOPERATION FROM ALL GOVERNMENT ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS, INCLUDING SHELLFISH WARDENS IN THE ADJACENT TOWNS OF ACUSHNET, FAIRHAVEN, AND DARTMOUTH. TO COMPLEMENT THE ENFORCEMENT EFFORT, PUBLIC EDUCATION REGARDING PCB HAZARDS SHALL BE INTENSIFIED, THROUGH THE NEW BEDFORD AREA PCB OFFICE.

PAGE 2

THE OFFICE, FOR WHICH FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITY HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH, SHOULD BE OPEN BY FALL. WE ALL WANT THE PEOPLE TO HAVE MAXIMUM PROTECTION FROM TOXIC POLLUTION AND FROM HEALTH IMPACTS POSED BY THE POLLUTION. ENFORCEMENT OF CLOSURES, ACTION AGAINST PEOPLE ENGAGED IN ILLEGAL HARVEST, AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS ARE VITAL TO SECURING THESE PROTECTIONS.

I HAVE ALSO ENCLOSED A COPY OF A CLOSURE SIGN FOR YOUR REVIEW. I HOPE AND RESPECTFULLY URGE THAT EPA PURCHASE THESE SIGNS FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT.

THANK YOU. I SHALL LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR EARLIEST RESPONSE.